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# Archival resources for theatre and drama

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**Archival resources for theatre and drama**

The following listing highlights a range of materials in our collections relevant to the study of theatre and drama. These include business archives and personal collections.

This is by no means a comprehensive listing and details of new acquisitions will also be added to this resource list. We welcome enquiries from potential researchers at any level and are very pleased to offer advice and assistance in using our archives in one-to-one or small group sessions by appointment.

More information about many of these collections is available on our online archive catalogue at <http://calmview.bham.ac.uk/> - use the finding numbers in the listing below to search the catalogue.

**Business records**

**New Shakespeare Company Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London**

Records date largely from the creation of the Company by David Conville in 1962, with a few items relating to productions given at the Open Air Theatre during the 1930s. Production records include those relating to each summer season in the Park (1962 onwards), the Company's British tours (1964, and most years 1970 onwards) and overseas tours (1964, 1975-76, 1980-81, 1983, 1985-86, 1994, 1995). Material includes prompt books, show reports, scrapbooks, reviews, programmes, posters, production photographs, costume and set designs, ground/stage plans, music scores, and production administration files. Company administrative records include papers relating to the founding of the Open Air Theatre, its administration and development, including the construction of the new auditorium in 1975; and correspondence of its managing directors and with sponsors and grant-awarding bodies. **Finding No: [DSH1](#)** (held at the Shakespeare Institute Library)

**Renaissance Theatre Company**

Prompt books for productions, 1986-92, show reports, programmes and copies of production photographs, 1987-1991. **Finding No: [DSH2](#)**

**Renaissance Films plc**

Scripts from the films 'Henry V' (released 1989) and accompanying brochure and 'Peter's Friends' (1992) **Finding No: [DSH3](#)**

**Mill Collection**

Records of Charles Watson Mill (d 1933), dramatist and theatre owner comprising copies of plays, part-books and personal and business papers, including materials relating to his tenure of the Theatre Royal, Leamington Spa, 1910-34. **Finding No: [MILL](#)**

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Personal collections

**Allen, Ianthe Theodora Heron- (fl 1910–24) of Selsey Bill, Sussex**

Theatre programmes and playbills, 1910–24. [Finding No: MS107](#)

**Calthrop, Gladys E. (d 1980), artist and set designer**

Costume drawings, 1934. [Finding No: MS492](#)

Correspondence from Noel Coward and others, 1930s-73. [Finding No: MS201](#)

**Campbell, Beatrice Stella (1865-1940) nee Tanner, actress, known as Mrs Patrick Campbell**

Commonplace book, c 1895. [Finding No: MS408](#)

**Chamberlain, Joseph (1836-1914), statesman**

Plays, charades and farces including 'The Game of Politics . . . A Political Comedy in Four Acts', late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> cent. [Finding No: AC1/6/1-8](#)

**Chambers, Edmund Kerchever (1866-1954), English scholar, historian of the English stage and civil servant**

Working papers for publications, c 1903-48. [Finding No: DSH8](#)

**Chortatsis, George (1575-1600), Cretan dramatist**

Manuscript copy of play, Erophile, c 1620. [Finding No: MS742](#)

**Clarke, Mary Victoria Cowden (b 1809) (nee Novello)**

Letters to Matthew Mason, printer and publisher, concerning revisions to be made to 'The Complete Concordance to Shakespeare', 1869-1874. [Finding No: DSH9](#)

**Cohen, Louis (fl 1880-1910), playwright**

Programmes and papers relating to performances of his works, 1883-1910. [Finding No: MS112](#)

**Coward, Noel (1899-1973), actor, playwright, composer, lyricist, painter and author**



The main collection received on deposit from the Coward Estate comprises Scripts of plays, films, short stories, and other publications; printed/published and manuscript song and instrumental music; typescripts of lyrics; press and magazine cuttings of reviews of Coward's plays, his performances as an actor, reviews relating to his publications, articles about him, personal interviews with him, 1911-

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2000; albums of his visits to Australia, 1940-41 and South Africa, 1944; photographs and programmes relating to productions of plays, 1920-97; portrait photographs of Coward and personal and family photographs; audio and visual recordings; personal and family, literary and business correspondence; typescript transcripts of diaries and journals, 1941-70, and other papers, 1910-2000. [Finding No: COW](#)

In addition, there are other smaller collections relating to Noel Coward and his works:

Letters to the Lister family, 1930s-50s. [Finding No: MS69](#)

Collection of theatre programmes 1913-91. [Finding No: MS491](#)

Posters, 1968-86. [Finding No: MS497](#)

Cuttings relating to life and works, 1943-96. [Finding No: MS498](#)

Letters to Patricia Hollander. [Finding No: MS500](#)

Play scripts. [Finding No: MS501](#)

Photographs and portrait. [Finding No: MS502](#)

Radio script of play, 1956. [Finding No: MS788](#)

**Dickens, Charles John Huffam (1812-1870), novelist and journalist**

Letter relating to an amateur performance at Theatre Royal, Birmingham, with draft playbill and draft and printed tickets for the performance, 1848. [Finding No: MS147](#)

**Dickinson, Patric Thomas (b 1914), poet and playwright**

Manuscript, typescript and printed copies of poems and plays, c 1942-72. [Finding No: PD](#)

**Drinkwater, John (1882-1937), playwright, poet and actor**

Correspondence, literary and other manuscripts, 1925-82. [Finding No: MS169](#)

Photograph album theatre sets and scenes, 1907-37. [Finding No: MS234](#)

Other photographs, 1913-30s. [Finding No: MS235](#)

**Fergusson, Sir Thomas Colyer Colyer- (1865-1951)**

Albums of theatrical and other programmes and associated printed materials, 1870-1915. [Finding No: MS108](#)

**Field, Lila (d 1954), dramatist, producer and librettist**

Collection of ten part scripts for children's play, 'The Goldfish', 1911. [Finding No: MS158](#)

**Fletcher, John (fl 1984-2007), radio dramatist**

Studio recording script of radio drama, 'How not to run a foreign policy', a political comedy about Neville Chamberlain's foreign policy in the run up to the Second World War, 2006. [Finding No: MS477](#)

**Heslewood, Tom (1868-1959)**

Manuscript version of Gringoire probably in the hand of E.S. Freeman, c 1909. [Finding No: MS567](#)

**Gielgud, Sir Arthur John (1904-2000), actor and theatre director**

Prompt books for 'Monna Vanna' and 'Three Sisters', 1924-25. [Finding No: MS273](#)

Correspondence with Professor Yoshio Arai and recording of the 'Tomorrow' speech from 'Macbeth', 1969-91. [Finding No: DSH11](#)

Annotated typescript of the 1956 radio adaptation of Noel Coward's 'Present Laughter' by Cynthia Pughe. [Finding No: MS788](#)

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**Graham, Pauline Dorothy (nee Smart), fl 1930s-1940s, University of Birmingham Student**

Papers relating to University of Birmingham Carnival Revue, 1936, organised by the Guild of Undergraduates, in which Pauline Smart was a cast member, press cuttings featuring photographs of the students taking part in a folk song recital at the Guild of Undergraduates building as part of the University Musical Society and the French Circle or Cercle de Francais, and a scene from a performance of 'The Dramatist' by members of Birmingham University Dramatic Society. Also included are twelve black and white photographs showing Pauline Graham (nee Smart) in theatrical productions probably in Leicester in the 1940s. Finding No: [USS123](#)

**Hawthorne, Nigel Barnard (1929-2001), English actor**

Playscript for 'King Lear', performed at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1999-2000. Finding No: [DSH12](#)

**Hinton, Percival (1896-1977), journalist and local historian**

scrapbooks of writings including material relating to the history of Birmingham theatres, 1920-60. Finding No: [MS39](#)

**Hunt, Hugh (Sydney) (1911-1993), English director and producer**

Annotated rehearsal copies of published plays including 16 of his productions of Shakespeare's plays, 1933-70. Finding No: [DSH25](#)

**Hunter, George Kirkpatrick (b 1920)**

Research notes relating to his published work 'English Drama 1586-1642: the age of Shakespeare, 1990s. Finding No: [MS818](#)

**Jackson, Sir Barry Vincent (1879-1960), theatrical director**

Letters, mostly to Edith Barling, 1933-60. Finding No: [LAdd](#)

**Keen, Alan of London, bookseller and manuscript dealer**

Papers relating to his research on the annotated copy of Edward Halle's 'The union of two noble and illustre famelies of Lancastre and Yorke', (1550). Finding No: [DSH7](#)

**Kemp, Thomas (d 1860) of London**

Collection of engravings and illustrations of actors and actresses and of theatres, newscuttings, theatrical playbills and programmes and other printed material and some manuscript items relating to the theatre, c 1770-1879. Finding No: [MS113](#)

**Lodge, David John (b 1935), novelist and playwright**

Literary papers, including manuscript and typescript of his play 'The Pressure Cooker' (revised as 'The Writing Game'), 1960s-90s. Finding No: [DL](#)

**Long, Merton's collection of Theatre Programmes**

Extensive sequence of UK theatre programmes. Heavy coverage of productions held in various theatres in London's West End and at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. Some programmes relate to productions held in the Midlands, including the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham. [c 1948]-2014. Finding No: [MS897](#)

**Manners (John) Hartley (1870-1928), playwright**

Author's copy of 'Out There' by J. Hartley Manners. In the manner of a prompt book. Typescript with

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manuscript annotations and photographs, sheet music, stage plans, and programme relating to the first performance at The Globe Theatre, New York in the week beginning 27 March 1917 tipped in.

Finding No: [MS875](#)

**Marston (1576-1634), John, English dramatist and satirist**

Anonymous manuscript edition of the late Elizabethan play 'Jack Drum's Entertainment' or 'the comedie of Pasquill and Katherine' by John Marston with later notes and corrections in a different hand., 1830. [Finding No: MS618](#)

**Nicolaeff, Ariadne (fl 1937-1984), playwright and translator**

Literary and other papers, 1956-81. [Finding No: MS822](#)

**Nicoll, John Ramsay Allardyce, Professor of English Language and Literature, University of Birmingham, and Director of the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford-upon-Avon**

Correspondence from actors, theatre producers and dramatists including Gordon Bottomley, Edward Gordon Craig, Christopher Fry, Sir Barry Jackson and Laura Knight, 1920s-1960s. [Finding No: US27](#)

**Painting, Norman (b 1924), actor, writer and poet**

Correspondence, scripts, and other papers, 1940s–2000s. [Finding No: MS200](#)

**Race, Sydney (fl 1879-1958), scholar**

Working and research papers relating primarily to John Payne Collier (1789-1883), Shakespearean critic and forger, c 1879-1958. [Finding No: DSH6](#)

**Reed, Henry (1914-1986), poet, radio dramatist and translator**



Personal and literary papers including material relating to his radio plays such as 'Moby Dick'.

[Finding No: MS31](#)

**Webster, Benjamin Nottingham (1797-1882), actor and dramatist**

Correspondence including letters from Watts Phillips and others. [Finding No: LAdd](#)

**Wells, Stanley (b 1930), Shakespeare scholar**

Papers relating to the 'Shakespeare: the Animated Tales' series, adaptations of Shakespeare plays, co-produced by S4C and Soyuzmultifilm (Moscow). collected by him as Literary Adviser on the Academic-Educational Advisory Panel; papers include cassette recordings of voice tracks, working scripts abridged by Leon Garfield, copies of story boards, correspondence, minutes of project meetings, publicity material, articles and reviews. [Finding No: DSH19](#)

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**Winston, James C (fl 1806-1830), London theatre manager**

Letters from actors, 1806-24. [Finding No: LAdd/619, 623-625](#)

**Actors ('His Majesty's servants') of the Royal Retributional Theatre, Retribution Hulk, Woolwich**

Letter from prisoners to Elliston, Theatre Royal, Haymarket, requesting costumes for their production of 'The Merchant of Venice', 1804, [Finding No: KWH/Q/877](#)

**Anon: Theatre Collection**

Large collection of c 5000 files containing principally printed materials relating to plays performed principally in theatres in London but also in provincial theatres and productions on tour in England, c 1920-60. [Finding No: MS38](#)

**Anon**

Volume containing playbills, theatre, concert and opera programmes and associated printed material, mostly performed at London venues but also at venues in Newcastle upon Tyne. 1842-late 19th cent. [Finding No: MS110](#)

**Anon**

Album of programmes of dramatic and musical entertainments and productions at London theatres and other London venues, c 1880-1900. [Finding No: MS111](#)

**Anon**

Scrap album containing theatre programmes, illustrations and photographs and other printed materials relating to performances of Shakespeare's plays and to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1899-1939. [Finding No: MS114](#)

**Anon**

Volume with over 200 theatre playbills and newspaper cuttings mostly relating to the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, [1781-1950s]. [Finding No: MS916](#)

**Anon**

Volume comprising theatre programmes for performances held at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 1933-1934. [Finding No: MS934](#)